Without Trial Installation of Raksha-Kavach by the Railways

2103. SHRI R.P. GOENKA :

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :

SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Raksha-Kavach, an Anti-Collision Device (ACD), has been developed by the Research and Design Standards Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including its efficacy and costing;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ACD is proposed to be installed shortly in all the trains even before it has undergone the usual extensive user trials or is tested and approved by the Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the specific reasons for the undue haste in installing an untested and doubtful device ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. Anti Collision Device is being developed by RDSO in association with Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL).

(b) Anti Collision Device (ACD) are micro processor based communication devices fitted on locomotives and brake vans or located in stations and level crossings. These give distinct identification to the locomotives and brake vans and using global positioning system and angular deviation count principle detect "collision like" situations and initiate application of brakes in the locomotives in a range of three kilometers. The ACD also helps in detecting train partings and initiate warning system at level crossings.

The device is under extended field trials. The approximate cost as advised by KRCL is :

Loco ACD = 4.35 lakhs

Station ACD = 3.50 lakhs

Brake Van Guard ACD = 4.00 lakhs

Gate ACD = 4.00 lakhs

(c) No, Sir. The device is under extended field trials on the railways to establish suitability, reliability, maintainability and integrity of working. After

assessment of the result of field trials and necessary modifications, the device would be considered for installation on trains, taking into account cost implications and subject to availability of funds.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c).

Purchase of Locomotives under BOLT Scheme

2104. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the purchase of 49 AC/DC locomotives under Build, Own, Lease and Transfer (BOLT) scheme would result in the outgo of funds to the tune of Rs. 811.91 crore;

(b) whether it is a fact that replacement of those locomotives under Depreciation Reserve Fund, where funds were available, have cost only Rs. 292.04 crore; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The purchase is for 53 locomotives and not 49. In purchase of these 53 locomotives, the sum total of instalments of payments, spread over 20 years, would be Rs. 811.91 crores.

(b) It is not a fact that these locomotives are to be replaced at a cost of Rs. 292.04 crores under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF). Procurement of the electric locomotives whether on additional or on replacement account are only financed from capital. It had been evaluated that Railways would have ended up paying more if money was borrowed from Indian Railways Finance Corporation instead of going through the Build, Own, Lease and Transfer (BOLT) scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Transplantation Centre in Hyderabad

2105. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has come forward to help in setting up a transplantation centre in Hyderabad;